

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating molten steel under vacuum which comprises the steps of:

- a) applying a degassing vacuum to molten steel; and
- b) feeding pieces of a porous degasification-promoting solid granulate into the molten steel with a size of 2 to 50 mm at least in a starting phase of the degasification.

1 2. (Original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 degasification solid is fed to the molten steel in the first 5
3 minutes of the degasification thereof.

1 3. (Original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the
2 degasification solid is fed continuously at a feed rate of 20 to
3 100 kg/min while the molten steel is under a pressure < 2 mbar.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (cancelled).

1 6. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim [[4]]
2 3 wherein the degasification solid is metal, ore or slag or a
3 combination thereof.

1 7. (Original) The method defined in claim 6 wherein the
2 ore is iron ore.

1 8. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim
2 3 wherein the degasification solid is stored in a vacuum bunker and
3 is metered into the molten steel.

1 9. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 8
2 wherein the degasification solid is metered into the molten steel
3 by a vibrating trough.

1 10. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 3
2 wherein, for a circulating steel melt the solid is blown into the
3 melt by nozzles opening below the surface of the melt.

1 11. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim
2 3 wherein, for a circulating melt or a load stand degasification,
3 the solid is blown into the melt by lances extending into the melt.